## Wisconsin needs YOU to participate in Invasive Species Awareness Month!!

## June 2005

## By Amy Staffen Chair, Education Committee, Invasive Plant Assoc. of WI

Any effort, big or small, is significant! Through knowledge comes change. What can you do? Read the following list and see if any of these activities are for you. Then go to the Invasive Species Awareness Month website for: step-by-step pointers on how to pull these activities together, educational resources (image library, experts list, Speakers Bureau, etc.), and an online form to register your activity.

## www.invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness

- 1. <u>Invite your friends, family or neighbors on a field trip to your favorite local natural area.</u> Highlight the beautiful natural elements that inspire you. Point out the invasive species that threaten the long-term integrity of the natural area.
- 2. <u>Submit an article on invasive species to your neighborhood newsletter.</u> Templates are available on the website. You can copy the templates verbatim if you wish!
- 3. <u>Organize an invasive species control work party at your favorite local natural area.</u> Coordinate this through your scout troop, school, neighborhood group or church.
- 4. Create a poster for display at your local library or school.
- 5. <u>Invite a speaker to talk about invasive species at your school, church, scout troop or non-profit meeting.</u>
- 6. For teachers and scout troop leaders, use one of the invasive species educational activity kits. Follow a link on the website to the Wisconsin DNR's EEK! (Environmental Education for Kids) program.
- 7. <u>Become a Clean Boat, Clean Water volunteer.</u> Enroll in one of the state's Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshops and learn how to recognize aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian water milfoil, as well as how to educate boaters on invasive issues.
- 8. <u>Coordinate a plant exchange program.</u> Work with a local nursery to provide gardeners with free native plants in exchange for their invasive garden plants.
- 9. <u>Provide information on the proper disposal of earthworms and live bait at a fishing</u> tournament.

10. <u>Distribute information on invasive pets such as the giant African snail at your local pet store or pet swap meet.</u>

For information not found on the website, contact Amy Staffen, Invasive Species Education Coordinator for the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species (<a href="mailto:astaffen@tnc.org">astaffen@tnc.org</a>; 608/251-8140, ext. 162).